

The Southwester

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.

FREE

SERVING SOUTHWEST

OCTOBER 1995

Habitat for Humanity is building homes and community in Southwest

by Marc Weiss

On Saturday, July 8th, the D.C. affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International dedicated a newly renovated house at 1400 First Street, Southwest. This large and beautifully restored and landscaped home and yard is located at the corner of First and O Streets. The house stood vacant for over two decades, a badly deteriorated neighborhood eyesore that was a focal point for drug dealing



Eleanor Holmes Norton, Dr. Marc Weiss and Marilyn Johnson (seated on right)

and vandalism. Now it stands as a symbol for homeownership opportunity for modest-income families, and a strong anchor for efforts to revitalize the Southwest community's housing, both private and public.

The dedication ceremony for homeowner Marilyn Johnson and her family, hosted by D.C. Habitat for Humanity, included speeches by D.C.'s Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Lynn French, Administrator of the Homestead Housing Preservation Program for the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development, and Dr. Marc Weiss, Vice President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and Special Assistant to Secretary Henry Cisneros of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The ceremony was opened with a blessing from Reverend C. Phillip Johnson of the Mount Airy

Baptist Church, and it included comments by D.C. Habitat Board President Dennis Smyth and Board Member Carroll Thomas, Habitat Homeowner Elsie Jones, and Habitat Family Partner Gertrude Dennis. Tom Dowdell performed for the crowd, playing "Bless This House" on a harmonica.

D.C. At-Large City Councilwoman Linda Cropp, Southwest ANC-2D Commissioner Charles Hargrave, Phoebe Layton, Southwest resident and Co-Chair of the Housing Committee for the D.C. chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Southwest Neighborhood Assembly activists Betty Brown and Jim Early, and numerous other community leaders also attended the event.

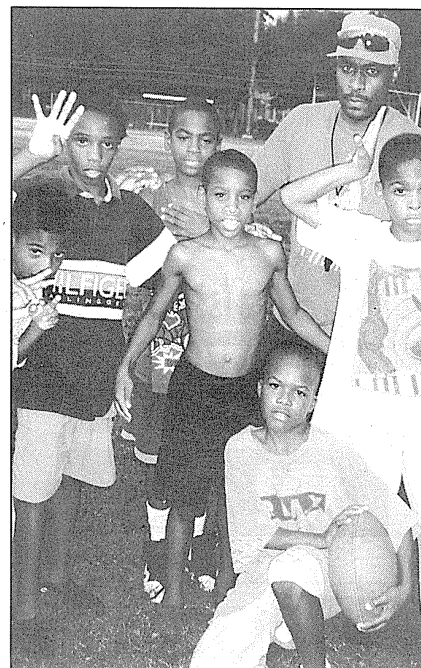
The new homeowner is a secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor and an active member of the First Baptist Church in D.C. Marilyn's father, William Hunt, grew up in Southwest Washington, so she feels right at home on First and O Streets. Living with Marilyn in the new house is her family of three children: her daughter Rachel, 18 years old, a student at the University of the District of Columbia, her other daughter Renee, who is 12 years old, and her son Phillip, who is 9 years old.

Marilyn said: "I have always worked to produce for my children. I tell my children to have faith and to pray. I preach this to them each day. It is very difficult to raise children in this day and time with the drug war and so much violence all around them....I have always wanted better living conditions for my children....We just kept the faith and prayed. This is a true blessing to be blessed with a home."

Information on Becoming a Habitat Homeowner

All Habitat homeowners, are carefully chosen by a committee that considers the motiva-

continued on page 5



Coach Wyatt Green with six of the forty young S.W. athletes at the Stallion Touch Football Clinic

SW Police Boys and Girls Club makes a comeback.

by Ataya M. Ball, SW Scholarship Recipient

"Discipline, guidance, and enjoyment" is the motto that the SW Police Boys and Girls Club imparts to the participating area children. Former SW resident and Director Alvin Hudgens along with his assistant, Officer Lyles, share both their skills and educational experiences. They assist youth in activities such as basketball, football, baseball, swimming, hiking, camping, and arts and crafts. They also provide education on the devastating effects of drugs and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, the importance of health care, higher education, self-esteem, self-awareness, and a host of other topics necessary for developing young, creative minds. They are not

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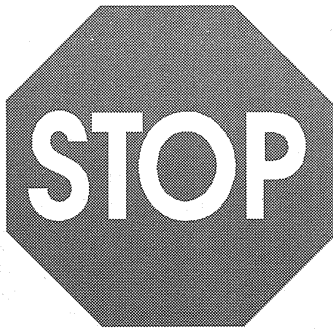
Inside:

Letters/Poems	P.2	Sat. Cleanup	P.7
SW Community Calendar ...	P.3	Project Wonder	P.9
Scholarship Celebration	P.4	Book/Music reviews	P.10
Carrolsburg Adopt-a-Block	P.4	Zoning meeting	P.11
Community Day	P.6	Summer Enrichment	P.12

Meeting:

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's September meeting will be on Wednesday at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3rd & M Street at 7:00. It will be co-hosted by the ANC & SWNA. It will be a Public Meeting to discuss the Zoning Plans for this area. The Urban Renewal Plan will expire soon & new zoning will be in its place.





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One Orange Tree

by Margaret H. Oliver

From a tree in the big grove
An orange fell to the ground
Bounced a bit and rolled
Round and round and round

It lay there day after day
The orange pickers passed it by
One little discolored fruit
Gazing at the sky

A small boy picked it up
To eat it was his plan
But it looked odd to him
So he gave it to a beggerman

The beggerman didn't eat it either
And after keeping it for a day
Along with other garbage
He threw the orange away

The little orange landed
In a field of richest earth
It sank in deeper deeper deeper
Then a sprout was given birth

That sprout grew and grew
Into a single fruit filled tree
That stands by the side of the road
Mystifying folks like me

We wonder how it got there
Just how it came to be
That in this place all by itself
There grows a beautiful lone orange tree

A Letter to SW

For the past two years, I have had the extreme pleasure to service the Southwest Washington community as a Children's Librarian at your local public library. In that time, I have witnessed a great generosity, many contributions, and support for the Southwest Branch Library. This community has a unique and energetic public servant in Carolyn Burgess-McCormick, and the support that this community offers her and the staff of Southwest cannot be matched.

I have learned many lessons from Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Caulker and many of you community leaders and organizers. The support from the Southwest Youth Task Force to establish the Jr. Friends Program, and Dr. Judith S. Bellin's knowledge of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Mini-grant has assisted in allowing me to provide portions of my vision for children's service to the children, youth, and families of Southwest. For all that this community has done and will continue to do, I say, thank you.

The time has come for my family and I to relocate and live closer to our extended family. Family is the most important component in our lives and it has become very necessary for my family to go home and seat on the porch with elders. Providing the opportunity to hear many more stories of family, in addition to allowing my son to grow up surrounded by Grandma, Great Grandma, Aunts, Uncles, and many cousins.

Finally, to all the children of Southwest who all have the potential, and ability, to grow into productive adults, I love you. Please do not forget what I have tried to teach you. Be strong, keep your head up, educate yourself and your family, do not allow others to side-track you, hold on to your dream and work hard to make them come true. You will all remain in my heart and in my mind. I will never forget the beauty in each one of you. Look for me from time to time. I will send you gifts to the Library. In Afrikan Victory!

Khafre K. Abif
Children's Librarian

The Southwester

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**Drop off your stories by
October 1, 1995**, in the box behind
the counter at the SW Library, 3rd & I
SW, or mail to : The Southwester, P.O.
70131, Washington, D.C. 20024

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From the Editor

Volunteers are at the very core of the *Southwester*. Many of the writers have been involved with the paper for a very long time. We are most grateful to each and every one of them. After the writers "write", our two computer typists, Jerry Blasenstein and/or Lavonne Adams "type". We thank all of you.

A former editor of the paper, Dale MacIver is our resident photographer, as well as my assistant, advisor and right-hand man. Dale, you are great!

A new volunteer, but one who is making a big difference is Rick Braswell. He is bringing the paper into the 1990s by putting it on Computer. His disc is then submitted to the Printing Company, Comprint. Hope that this is just the beginning of a long relationship with the *Southwester*.

Southwest Community Calendar September — October 1995

- Sept 18 **Mon SW Cleanup Cmte.**, fall planning mtg., SW Branch Library, 7pm
- Sept 20 **Wed Southwest Waterfront AARP** Chapter 4751, St. Matthews Church, 12 noon; **SWNA/Office of Planning Town Hall** meeting on Southwest zoning, St. Matthews Church, 7pm; **Wiley Branton CDC Board**, (time and place to be announced)
- Sept 28 **Thu NARFE** Chapter 2052, Southwest Branch Library, 1:30 p.m.
- Oct 3 **Tue First District MPD Citizens Advisory Council**, 1D Headquarters, 415 4th St., S.W., 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 16 **Mon Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 18 **Wed Southwest Waterfront AARP** Chapter 4751, St. Matthews Church, 12 Noon; **Wiley Branton CDC Board** (Time and Place tba)
- Oct 26 **Thu NARFE** Chapter 2052, Southwest Branch Library, 1:30 p.m.

Police Boys and Girls Club, continued

only directors. They are also role models.

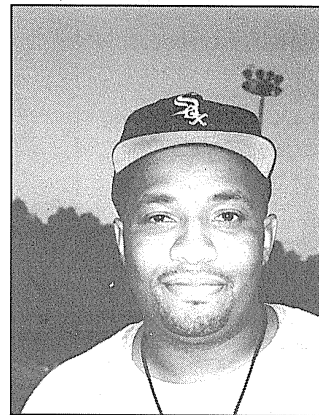
The one dollar membership fee makes the club accessible to many participants. The club plays an essential role in their physical and mental development. For many participants, the club provides a safe environment - allowing members to engage in structured activities. For Ronnie Ray, a ten year old SW resident who spends most of his time at the club, it has become a haven. When asked what he learned from participating in the club, Ronnie responded, "The Club helps me stay out of trouble, and it teaches me to do good in school."

The SW Police Boys and Girls Club encourages its members to accept no limitations. Selected participants can use their skills and training to compete in sporting events and tournaments beyond the metropolitan area. This marks the fifth year that the club has been selected by the Athletic City Wide Board to compete in the annual sports convention. This year the club sponsored twelve children to participate in a basketball tournament held in Orlando, Florida.

While everyone agrees that the Club provides an essential service to the SW community, the recent budget crisis and the decrease in donations is cause for alarm. With limited funding the club has been forced to operate with fewer supplies and equipment, and very little money is available for repairs. Despite that, enrollment for the club is up a significant 15%

from last year - pushing the number of active members up to 272. While 80% of the children registered for the Police Boys and Girls Club are SW residents, 15% are from the Arther Capper community, and 5% are from the Potomac Gardens community. According to Director Alvin Hudgens, 90% of these children are from low income families.

The neighborhood Police Boys and Girls Club is currently accepting donations. Please contact Mr. Hudgens on 202-727-4618 or send a donation to the Police Boys & Girls Club c/o the SW Community Council, POB 70792, SW, Wash., DC.



Alvin Hudgens, Director,
Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club



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Scholarship Event

A hot summer evening at the Gangplank Marina was the setting for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's 1995 Scholarship Awards Celebration for twenty grant recipients. The theme this year was "A Twenty-one Year Scholarship Reunion".

The program opened with words of welcome by Scholarship Committee Chairwoman Barbara Murray and musical selections from violinist Waymon McCoy and Denna Purdie, cellist followed by a saxophone selection by past scholarship recipient, Ben Sands. In his "real life", Ben teaches music in the D.C. Public Schools. SWNA President, Dr. Beryl Rice thanked everyone and expressed the Assembly's appreciation for the community volunteerism and financial support for each of the Assembly programs.

Committee member, Casandra Singleton spoke very movingly about her own feeling of fulfillment she gets from working with the students, she has been involved with the scholarship program for over fourteen years. Other committee members, Marian Mitchell, Sandra Yates, Dale MacIver, Emma Ward and Carole Early also felt that same good feeling. Casandra invited others to contribute time to this worthwhile project.

Francine Vinson, past scholarship chairwoman highlighted the many years of the unique Southwest program. It was started by River Park residents and introduced past recipients who were at the reception. They were Lisa Matthews, Malonda Richards, Tony Murray, Fulton Vinson, and Ben Sands. In addition, she gave an update on recipients who have left the area like actress, Simbi Waters who was seen

most recently on the TV show "Martin".

This year nineteen students qualified for grants ranging from \$300 - \$1,000. In addition, Sara Wells will receive the \$5,000 Design Center Scholarship to continue her studies at



Dale MacIver, Carole Early, Marian Mitchell, Sandra Yates, Casandra Singleton, and Chair-Barbara Murray (Emma Ward arrived after the photo was taken)

Hampton University in architecture and design.

Twelve of the applicants were able to attend the ceremony, the remaining eight were either at school studying, interning or working.

After a funfilled evening, the celebrants ended the party with listening and dance music provided by disc jockey, Mr. "B" and delicious refreshments courtesy of Spirit of Washington, Hogates, Creole Orleans, Market Inn, Phillips, Odyssey and the Committee.

"Carrollburg Friends" and Adopt-A-Block

by Mildred E. Brown

Members of "Carrollburg Friends" in the 1200 blocks of Half Street and Carrollburg Place SW are well on their way with the "Adopt-A-Block" project.

Some of the residents have been actively involved in keeping the streets and alleys clean. Mr. Joseph Hawkins, resident and owner of Hawkins Hauling Company has been very helpful with the project. He has volunteered his time and staff to assist. They trimmed the trees in the alley at Half Street and have been instrumental in helping with the removal of trash. With his service, this project will continue to be successful.

In order to prevent the

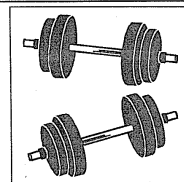
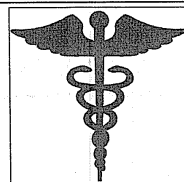
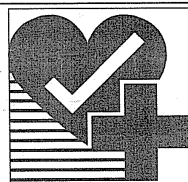
residents from possibly getting fined for putting trash out on non-designated trash collection days, our District 4 Representative Emma P. Ward now gives out a yellow slip to residents to remind them to put the trash out only on designated days. She also works very closely with absentee homeowners to get their assistance with this project.

Members of the community have been meeting to discuss a community-wide effort to resolve some of the problems. We met on August 18 and have set up meetings for the third Friday in each month for the remainder of the year to further discuss how we can improve our neighborhood. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM at 1228 Carrollburg Place, S.W. If you have any ideas or suggestions for this project, please call 202-484-4880.

The Committee acknowledges the generosity of the Gangplank for opening their facility for the program and to all good people of Southwest who believe education is important and have made the scholarship program possible for twenty-one years!

1995 - 1996 Grant Recipients

Ball, Ateya	Howard University
Ball, Jameela	West Virginia State
Brown, Lolita	Howard University
Clemencia, Ebony	Howard University
Council, Kiana	Coppin State College
Earl, Yolanda	Mount Vernon College
Early, Mary	Bennington College
Frankel, Todd	University of Delaware
Gordon, Ali	Morehouse College
Gray, Miya	Rensselaer Polytechnic
Hamilton, Rhonda	Towson State Univ
Jefferson, Vashti	Hampton University
Mitchell, Jonathon	Morris Brown College
Neal, Michelle	Norfolk State University
Talbott, Pauline	Trinity College
Triplett, Gregory	Florida A & M Univ
Wells, Sara	Hampton University
Wyder, Candace	Norfolk State
Yates, Saunice	Howard University
Zellars, Kimberly	Howard University



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY FREE HEALTH FAIR

When: Wed., Oct. 4; 3 - 7pm

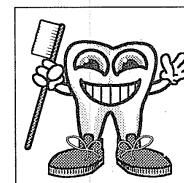
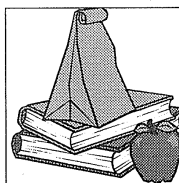
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A program of the "SEU Drug Free Alternatives" campaign.



Habitat for Humanity, *continued.*

tion and commitment of the applicant, and then the person puts in a minimum of 500 hours of volunteer labor ("sweat equity") building Habitat houses, including his/her own house.

The person also goes through classes

advising how to buy, own, and maintain a home, and meets regularly with a Family Partner who serves as a mentor, giving encouragement and support when the going gets tough. This is one of the many great features of the Habitat movement — volunteers build and renovate the homes, working directly with the future homeowners.

In addition to building homes with volunteer labor, including many people active in churches, synagogues, and community organizations, Habitat for Humanity also collects donations of money from many sources. For example, the house at 1400 First Street S.W. received funds from the Habitat Heroes from Southwest D.C., and the United

Way's Combined Federal Campaign (contribution account number 7238). In addition, many local business often donate building materials, plus construction contractors and professional specialists from the homebuilding industry frequently donate their time or discount the costs of labor and equipment.

How Does Habitat Work?

Habitat sells the homes at cost to the homebuyers, reducing the price even further by eliminating the profit, and then raises donations to make a 30-year mortgage loan to the homebuyer at no interest. As Habitat homeowners repay these mortgages, the funds are recycled to make mortgage loans for newer Habitat homebuyers. Marilyn's mortgage, for example, was funded in part by the loan repayments of the D.C. Habitat Homeowners. Habitat homebuyers must make a down payment of one percent of the purchase price in cash, to make sure that they save money and have a financial stake in the home along with their 500 hours of sweat equity.

Habitat for Humanity accepts no government funds to subsidize the homebuilding or the mortgage financing, though it does use government subsidies to buy and develop land. For example, Habitat acquired the house on First Street, S.W. from the DC Department of Housing and Community Development's Homestead Housing Preservation Program for \$250 dollars,

and the city provided Habitat a \$10,000 loan with a low interest rate of 3 percent. The District uses its own funds as well as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development to provide the low-interest loans and to assist with site improvements and building rehabilitation.

Habitat for Humanity is able to sell more homes at lower cost to lower income people than any other program in America. In every case, especially with the no-interest mortgage, the Habitat families end up paying less in their monthly homeownership costs than they were previously paying in rent. And with Habitat's religious faith, volunteer labor, and family-community partnership that they call "nurturing," Habitat homeowners almost never default on their mortgages, a record any banker would envy. Almost all of these new homeowners could not afford to buy a house without Habitat for Humanity, and most of them never thought they would have the opportunity before they got involved with the Habitat program.

Habitat for Humanity International, headquartered in Americus, Georgia, was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller with the belief that everyone in the world has a basic human right to live in a decent home. Over the past 19 years Habitat has built or rebuilt some 40,000 houses, the majority of them in the United States, and all of them for homeownership by low- and moderate-income working people. Former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalyn Carter are very active in working with Habitat for Humanity International and have helped gain visibility for the organization. They spend at least one week a year working full-time on a week-long "blitz build" of multiple houses with hundreds or even thousands of volunteers. They did one of these "Jimmy Carter Work Projects" in Washington D.C. in 1992, and just completed 21 new houses in Watts, California (Los Angeles) a few weeks ago.

The D.C. affiliate of Habitat for Humanity will soon be moving its new headquarters to our neighborhood, where it will be located at South Capitol and L Streets, S.E. They are actively looking for more abandoned properties or vacant lots on which to build or rebuild new homes for Habitat homeowners, especially for families that already live in Southwest. They want to work closely with the residents of public housing and particularly with the public housing Resident Councils, as well as with all of the key community organizations, community service groups, businesses, and religious institutions in the neighborhood.

For more information about how to become a Habitat homeowner, how to volunteer to work with D.C. Habitat for Humanity, or to suggest a property in Southwest Washington that might be available for acquisition, contact D.C. Habitat's Executive Director Carol Casperson at (202) 563-3411.

Marilyn Johnson, the proud new homeowner of 1400 First St. S.W., sums it up best: "I have prayed for a home for such a long time. Now my dreams are a reality. DC Habitat for Humanity has truly been a blessing to us. I pray and hope that it will continue its good work so that many other families will be able to live with dignity in safe, secure homes."

Marilyn Johnson at her "Habitat" home at 1st and 'O'

A Grateful Lady By Jessica Glasser

When asked how she feels about her new home designed by Habitat for Humanity, Marilyn Johnson replies that "there are no words to describe how magnificent it is."

Since the Johnsons moved into their new home, Marilyn has felt like her dream has come true. Prior to her initial involvement with the organization in 1992, Marilyn had tried to find decent and affordable housing for almost fifteen years. Now that her wishes have been realized, she tries to "give back as much as I possibly can."



In order to achieve that goal, Marilyn had a housewarming party a few weeks ago. She invited friends and family involved with Habitat for Humanity to attend. In the coming weeks, she is planning a Back-to-School party for children of Habitat homeowners.

Marilyn Johnson at her "Habitat" home at 1st and 'O'

Advance Directives Workshop

A workshop on the preparation of Advance Directives (i.e. Living Wills, Health-Care Power of Attorney, etc.) will be held on Thursday, Oct. 26, and on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The workshop is sponsored by the AARP and attorneys will conduct the sessions. The workshop is free and is open to any interested adult. Attendance at both sessions is required. **Place:** River Park, 1311 Delaware Avenue, S.W. in the South Common Room.

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 a.m. on both 10/26/95 and 10/31/95. Please call 202-484-8470 to register or for additional information.

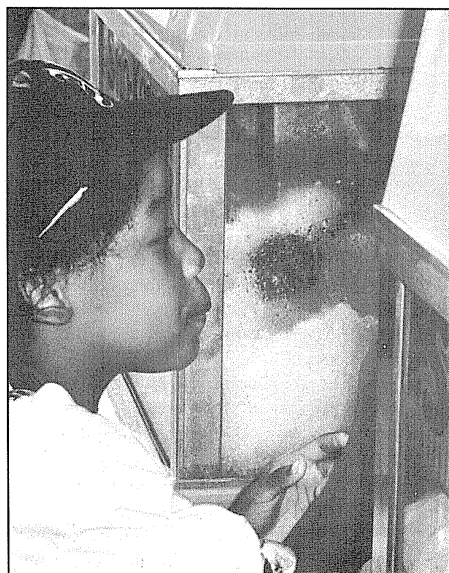
Community Day . . .



Talent Show

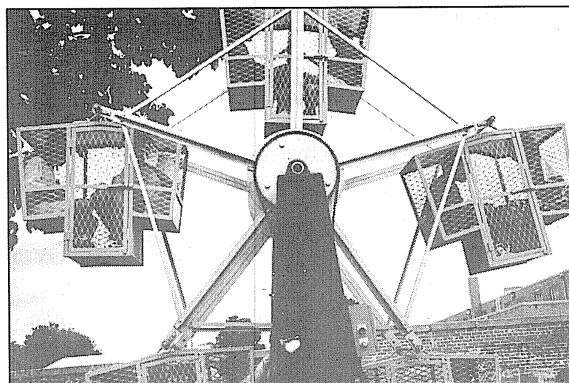


A Community Day Chef

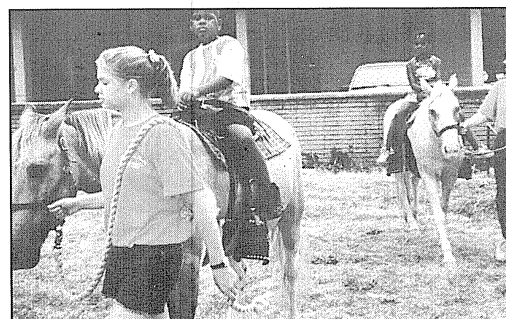


Cooling-off

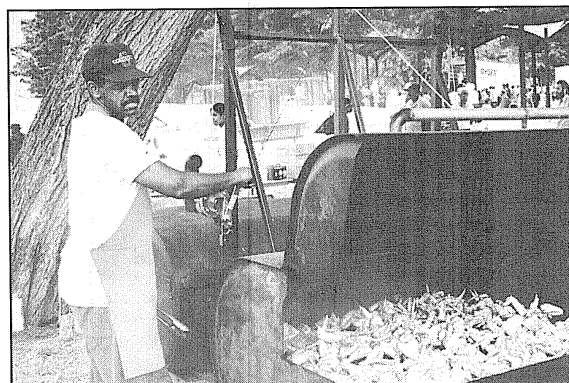
On Sunday, August 27, 1995, Community Day was celebrated in Lansberg Park. Reginald Switzer, in conjunction with Mr. Earl Pope of City Life, A Head-To-Toe Life Style Guide, were the proud sponsors. This was the second time for this annual event. Games, food and getting together with friends were the activities of the day.



Ferris Wheel



Horse Rides



Another chef for Community Day



A game of Cards at Community Day

Earning Sailor Stripes

by H. Kolasch

It takes years to master the art of sailing, but recently, the new luxury cruise ship, Odyssey III offered fifty kids from the Southwest neighborhood a chance to earn their stripes.

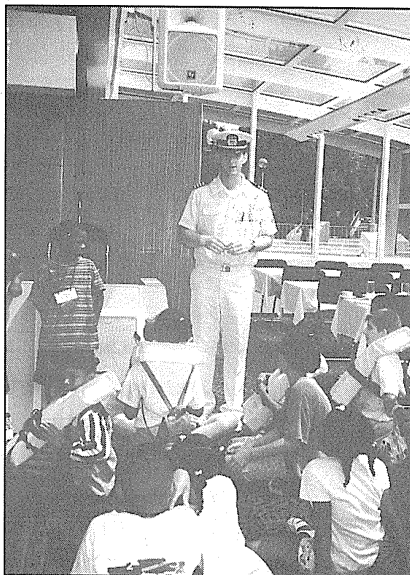
Captain Sean McGrath began the nautical lesson by fitting all the kids with life jackets and instructing them on the safety measures. They looked like a small huddle of bright orange ducks when they put on the life preservers.

Captain Sean first showed them the ship's cleets, these are "large brackets used to tie and store the 200 pound ship lines while cruising." Next, he showed them a heaving line with a monkey fist. The deckhands throw the massive ships lines to and from one another using a heaving line. On the bow of the ship, Captain Sean opened one of two wing stations. These "steering stations" are used when the ship leaves or is pulling into dock.

The kids were shown the forward and aft masts, which, it was explained, are lowered before cruising under the 14th Street bridge. "Odyssey III is unique in that no other ship can lower or raise their ship's masts," said McGrath. Odyssey III was built in Morgan City, Louisiana, specifically for the Potomac River. She is the only ship of her kind on U.S. waters.

At the end of their journey, the campers were awarded their "stripes." What an adventure! Children's groups are invited to "earn

their stripes" aboard Odyssey III. To schedule a field trip, call 202-337-5391.



Captain Sean McGrath addresses safety measures aboard Odyssey III with kids from Project Wonder.



Adopt-A-Block and Saturday Morning Cleanups: Fall Planning Meeting

The Adopt-A-Block and Saturday Morning Cleanup Committee will conduct a fall planning meeting on Monday, September 18, 1995 at 7 PM, at the Southwest Branch Library, Wesley Place and K Street, SW.

The purpose of the meeting is for all interested Southwesters to participate in making plans for an active fall program to assist the city government in maintaining the Southwest streets, sidewalks, and other public spaces and also to form garden groups for public spaces.

This can be achieved in many ways and all Southwesters are invited to participate. Citizens or groups may actively clean up selected areas, participate by conducting activist campaigns to obtain optimum services from the district government, provide advertising for the program, or make donations of money or maintenance items.

If one can't actively pick up trash and clean up poorly maintained areas, he or she can always participate by getting involved in some of the other activities listed above. Just volunteering to make telephone calls is a big help.

All Southwest residents and representatives from schools, businesses, restaurants, marinas,

churches, town house associations, cooperatives, condominiums, government offices, and block and garden groups are encouraged to attend.

Until the city government can get back to providing full services, the Adopt-A-Block committee needs all the help it can get. For further information, please call one of the following people: Mary Ann Bailer 479-0571, Joe Rauscher 554-8094, Emma Ward 484-8476, Dr. Beryl Rice 554-4235 or Jim Early 488-3355.

Southeastern Univ. Will Host Block Party

Southeastern University will throw a block party to kick off its participation in the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's ADOPT-A-BLOCK PROGRAM on October 14, 1995 from 2 PM until 4 PM in front of Southeastern at 6th and I Streets, SW.

Southeastern University plans to adopt the areas surrounding the university and also other areas nearby. This will be done by student organizations and staff. All residents of Southwest are invited to the block party. There will be free food and beverages. Look for additional advertising.

Mary Ann Bailer at 479-0571 or Frankie Crosby, Southeastern University, 488-8162, extension 300.

"55-Alive" program . . .

If you are over 55, and take a "55-Alive" driving course, you can claim a healthy discount for the next three years. Courses are conducted under the auspices of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), as well as GEICO. They are offered in various locations. Just recently, Southwest was added to this list. It took place September 12-13. Florence Nebblept, an AARP volunteer, was the instructor.

Ms. Nebblept will consider repeating the session in late October or early November if ten or more persons want it. Her telephone number is (202) 646-1359. She notes that it is mandatory for D.C. insurance companies to honor this course.

A telephone call to one's insurance company will verify the amount of the discount allowed. One does not have to be a member of AARP to participate. There is an \$8.00 fee for all participants.

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Merchant's Corner

Southwest Podiatry is delighted to welcome Dr. Ukessia Williams, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, as an Associate to Southwest Podiatry.

Dr. Williams is an extremely well trained clinical podiatrist and surgeon. She is interested in all aspects of clinical foot problems.

Southwest Podiatry offers a full range of podiatric services. These include preventative and therapeutic care of diabetic and peripheral vascular disease patients, the evaluation and therapy of the diabetic foot ulcer, geriatric footcare, sports-related injuries, overuse syndrome, biomechanical correction of gait disorders, and surgical correction of bunions, hammertoes, neuromas, soft tissue lesions, etc. Dr. Williams will also be available for house calls.

In addition, Dr. Williams has had considerable experience in the preparation and fitting of orthotics, and in the formation and fitting of specialized footwear.

By adding the services of Dr. Williams to the services of Southwest Podiatry, we hope both to broaden the Diabetic/Geriatric foot care for the at-risk patients and provide a convenient referral service for your patients. Dr. Williams will be at the office during the daytime hours. Dr. McDowell will continue evening and Saturday hours. For appointments, please call 202-488-7740.

Tutoring at Second Baptist

by Vernice Howard

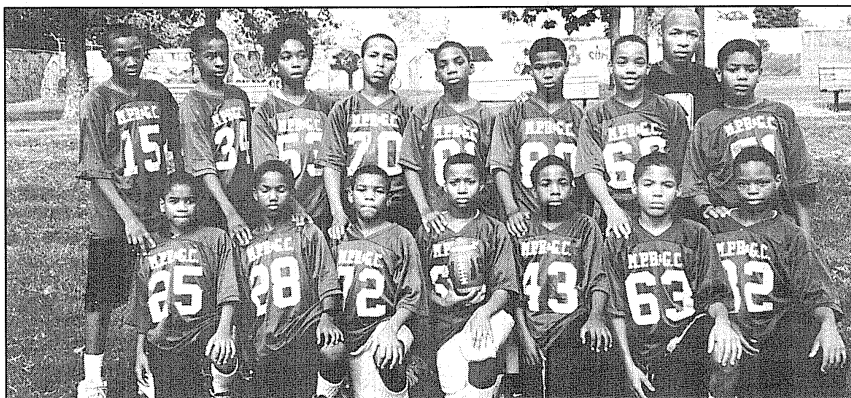
The Scholarship Committee of Second Baptist Church is accepting names of persons who are interested in being tutored for the following tests: **Proficiency in Vocabulary Building and Math**, this is open only to SW students who are in the 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th grades. **PSAT** for S.W. junior high students and the **SAT** for S.W. high school students.

These classes will take place the last of September and all of October - one day a week for two hours.

Call Vernice Howard, Chairperson at 554-0868 between 6 and 8 pm, Monday-Friday to reserve a space. While the program is free, there is a \$5.00 fee for the application.

Odyssey Agreement Available

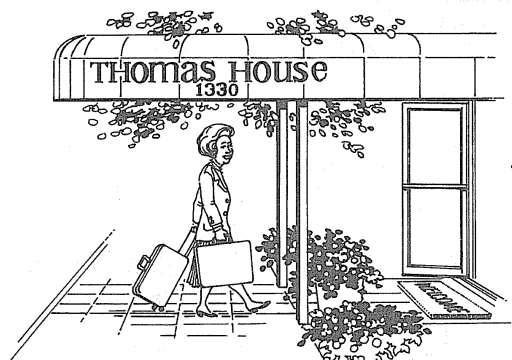
Copies of a proposed "voluntary agreement" that the Odyssey III representatives have developed in response to community concerns raised by ANC 2D are available for review in the SW Library. For additional information call the ANC office 554-1795.



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Project Wonder

A chilly wind was blowing in off the river last January when Fr. Joseph Del Vecchio hosted the ministers from the churches in Southwest at a meeting in the parish house of St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church. Fr. Joe asked the group if they thought it would be a good idea for the churches to join together to host a Vacation Bible School for the elementary school children in the neighborhood.

Summer seemed a long way off at the time, but the ministers agreed that it was at least worth discussing the idea.

Over the next few months, as the weather warmed up, the ministers also warmed up to the idea which Fr. Joe presented. The notion was very simple. Rather than inviting the young people to come to one of the churches, all the churches would join together to go to the kids. The churches in Southwest would hold the Bible School in Landsburgh Park behind Bowen Elementary School. In the mornings, Bible study would be led by volunteers from the various congregations, and in the afternoons the children would be taken on field trips to museums, the Odyssey Cruise ship, and the swimming pool at Marina View Towers.

A hot, dry wind was blowing off the

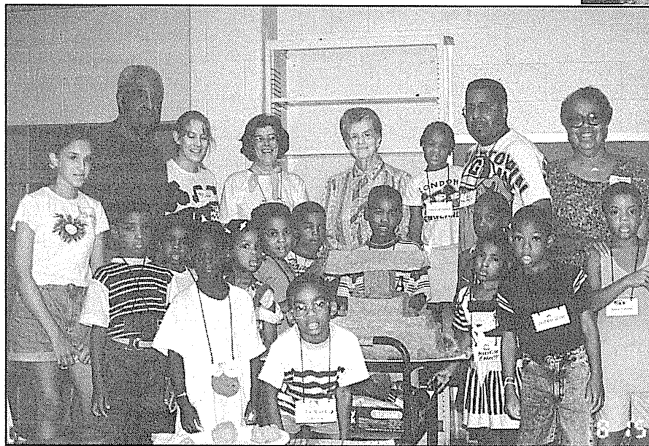
Potomac River by the time the camp began on August 14th. Seven congregations and an independent teaching ministry were involved in making plans, rounding up volunteers, working on the logistics of feeding and transporting everyone. All that was left to do was to wait and pray that some youngsters would come to the camp. By the time everything was packed up and put away on Friday, August 18th, seventy-six children from the neighborhood had participated in the Vacation Bible School. Fifty volunteers from local churches, the youth group from Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke, Virginia, along with the neighborhood Police Boys and Girls Club had taken part in teaching, feeding, driving, guarding, and caring for the youngsters.

Project Wonder was a successful event in many different ways. The primary purpose of bringing Bible study to the young people in the neighborhood was met. A city park which had not seen much in the way of maintenance for the past couple of years was spruced up, cleaned up, and fixed up. The joy that the members of the churches experienced working together was an important step in bringing people closer together. The ministers from the churches in Southwest have already begun planning Project Wonder, 1996.

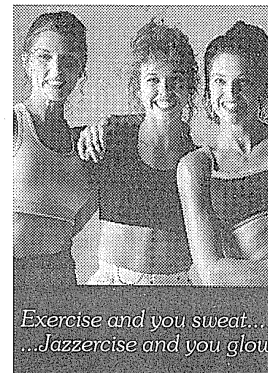


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Charlotte Brooks leading the campers on a field trip.



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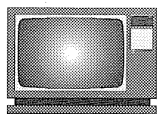
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Book Review

by Stanley Stocker-Edwards

"The Land Where the Blues Began"

by Alan Lomax

In the book, "The Land Where the Blues Began," Lomax takes the reader on an odyssey through the American South in search of the birthplaces of the blues. "When you lie down at night, turning from side to side, and you can't be satisfied no way you do, Old Man Blues got you," the famous blues singer Leadbelly once told musicologist Alan Lomax.

In this decades-long search which includes recording sessions in barrelhouses and juke joints across the southern landscape, he examines not only the musical antecedents that some argue

gave rise to the blues — spirituals, hollers, work songs — but also the terrain of the heart and psyche that gave rise to the black song form that has influenced the world.

Principally the domain of black men in the formative years, around 1905 through the

1930's, the blues chronicled the ethos of a group of people whose regular existence involved negotiating a path through life in the constant company of that most capricious and cruel of companions — Jim Crow. The blues grew out of the frustrations of black life in the deep south.

The brief discography and book list appended to the Lomax's work alone are treasures. However, it is the evocation of the temper of the times, the laughter, sorrow, and ultimately the perseverance, of the people that fueled the music as well as the songs themselves that are the singular achievements of Lomax's oeuvre. While Lomax occasionally makes questionable assessments of the sociological factors which gave rise to the blues, such lapses are rare indeed, and "The Land Where the Blues Began" well deserves to be a classic in the literature of the blues that it will assuredly become. This treasure is available at the SW Branch Library.

Washington Bach Consort

by Wallace Babington

We are fortunate in Southwest to have easy access to many of the entertaining and enriching music programs available in downtown Washington. One such opportunity is the monthly noontime concert series of the Washington Bach Consort at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St., NW (at the Metro Center subway stop). This is the first year that the Consort has performed at the Church on a regular monthly basis; the concerts will be held at 12:10 PM on the first Tuesday of each month and are presented free of charge. The Washington Bach Consort was founded in 1977 by Dr. J. Reilly Lewis and is devoted to the

study and performance of the complete vocal and instrumental works of Johann Sebastian Bach. Dr. Lewis still serves as music director. The consort is comprised of a chorus of 32 singers and an orchestra of professional Washington-area musicians noted for their performance of 18th-century music. The Consort is a critically acclaimed and nationally recognized professional chorus and orchestra. They present five subscription concerts each year in addition to the Epiphany concerts and a series of educational programs for Washington-area elementary school children.

This is a musical feast that is not to be missed. The first concert will be Tuesday, October 3 at 12:10 PM. The concerts last approximately 45 minutes.



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SWNA Zoning Meeting - September 20

There will be a Zoning Meeting on Wednesday, September 20th at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. It is sponsored by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and will serve as the Assembly Meeting. Representatives from the Office of Planning will speak about changes to the zoning that SW will experience. This will be brought on when the Urban Renewal Plan expires. For approximately 40 years, SW has been unzoned and subject to urban renewal land use controls rather than zoning. The zoning regulations require that all privately owned and District of Columbia government properties be zoned.

The Southwest Redevelopment Area is bounded generally by Independence Avenue on the north, South Capital St. on the east, P Street on the south, the Washington Channel on the southwest, and 14th Street on the west. The plan was adopted in 1952 by the planning commission and the D.C. Board of Commissioners. Consistent with the urban renewal philosophy of that time, the plan provided for nearly total clearance and redevelopment as the appropriate solution to multiple problems in the area - substandard housing, numerous alley dwellings, overcrowding, absentee landlords, deficient housing maintenance, extreme poverty and intermingling of commercial and residential uses.

The plans for the several subareas, provided guidelines for the acquisition, disposition and redevelopment of land assembled by the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA). After acquisition, land was made available for development by private owners or long-term lessors pursuant to the specifics of the urban renewal plan. As federal property, the land acquired became unzoned and subject instead to the urban renewal plan and disposition controls.

This area has now been almost entirely built out. Development projects have been approved by the RLA on a case-by-case basis over the years, within the use and density guidelines of the urban renewal plan. The buildings are still relatively new and, in most cases, have many years of remaining usable life. Consequently, the recommended zoning controls generally accord with and reinforce the planning objectives of the urban renewal plan.

Everyone is Invited

St. Augustine's Church at 6th & M St. would like to invite each and everyone to come by the Sanctuary at the church on Thursdays, from 11-2. The doors to the Sanctuary will be open to people of all (or no) religions. Everyone is free to pray, meditate or simply use the quiet time in his/her own private way. On every Thursday, St. A's becomes non-denominational and all are welcomed.

Councilman Evans Speaks Out



Good News: P2 Bus Line May Resume

Councilmember Jack Evans and representatives at Metro have crafted a plan which will possibly restore the P2 bus service which runs along M Street in Southwest. As the City Council returns from its summer recess, Evans will rally the support of his colleagues as he works to find \$135,000 to Metro's budget allowing for the continuation of the P2 bus route.

During a meeting at the Greenleaf Senior building earlier this year, Evans discovered seniors who depend on the P2 bus to go downtown were having to wait 40 to 90 minutes to transfer between buses. Since the discontinuation of the P2, commuters have had to take three or four buses instead of one or two to reach their destinations. Evans pointedly asked those present at the meeting what they recommend as the best solution. Based on the suggestions from residents and a written report by Metro officials, Evans has concluded it is likely he will find the money needed to restore the service. If successful, the P2 will resume operation later this fall.

Farewell From Vicki Parker, Councilmember Evans Southwest representative

By Vicki Parker

For the past two years your kind gestures, warm smiles and love for your community has fueled my desire to be the voice for Southwest residents in Councilmember Evans' office and in the halls of the John A. Wilson Building. Although there remain a few issues that have yet to be resolved, there were many victories - small and large - which mark this period as successful. Of these accomplishments the most significant was strengthening the relationships between Southwest leaders, community activists and Councilmember Jack Evans and his staff.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work with the fine people of the Southwest area. As I settle into my new position as Assistant to the Washington Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal, I am saddened only by having to relinquish this post - as Southwest representative. Thank you all for welcoming me into your community, your lives and for calling me friend.

G.E.D.

Coming soon - *Back to School: Getting Your GED* sessions will resume in late summer or early fall. These information sessions will cover: what the GED (General Education Development Test) is; where and how to prepare for the GED Exam; information on the EDP (External Diploma Program); and information about the various kinds of ABE & ESL programs available in the District. ABE Office staff will be on hand to answer questions. Call Adult Education (ABE) at 202-727-1616 or pickup information at the S.W. Branch Library.

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Summer Enrichment Program . . .

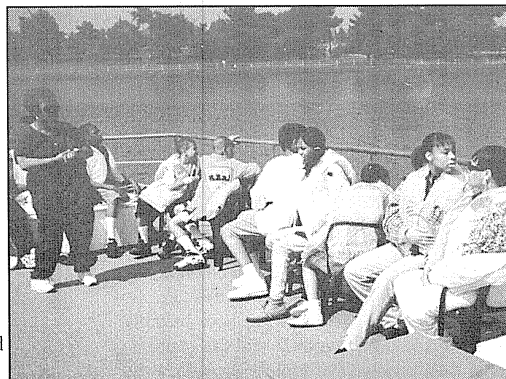
For five weeks this summer, the Southwest Community House, in conjunction with the United Planning Organization, conducted a Summer Enrichment Program at Jefferson Junior High School. Nineteen youths participated, most of whom had just completed their first year of Junior High. The program ran for 5 weeks, meeting daily from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The program was taught by Mrs. Geraldine Bowie, a long-time teacher in the D.C. public school system, who has been the reading teacher at Jefferson JHS the past 9 years. She was assisted by Ms. Rita McLaughlin, a teacher's aide at Jefferson last year, and two very capable youth aides, Kawan Taylor and Dana Cannon, who attend Hampton and Johnson C. Smith Universities, respectively.

The program was successful, from both the students' and the administrators' perspectives. The academic theme of the program was "Communication." For a tangible focus, the students focused on "bridges," both the physical structures and the conceptual meanings. Each student designed and constructed his or her own bridge, using materials found in the home. They all did

a beautiful job with the bridges.

There were seven field trips during the program: Southwest Library; AMC Rivertown Theater (job-related tour plus seeing a movie); a very exciting and enjoyable cruise on Southwest's yacht, "Finished Business," owned and operated by Elizabeth Rose and Eric Slaughter; attended a taping of the television program, "Video Soul" at the BET Studios in Northeast Washington; toured the Coast Guard's Curtis Bay Station in Baltimore; Children's Museum; Union Station, to view the "Yugo" exhibit and attend a movie; swimming at Marina Towers complex on several afternoons after class was over.

There were academic components to the program. Each student had a journal and wrote an essay each day on a topic that exercised their minds. They also were assigned daily exercises from a workbook which tested various English and Math skills and there was some computer activity. This was one summer program which successfully combined learning and having fun.



Mrs. Geraldine Bowie talking to students as they cruise on the "Finished Business" L to R Rick Bardach (rear), Donyell Johnson, Yodit Tuquabo, Nicole Hollingsworth.

S.W. LINCT Computer Learning Project Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 pm, St. Matthews Church, 222 M St.

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